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SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE-REMOTE SENSING

TODAY'S UN DOCUMENTATION INCLUDES A PAPER ENTITLED
"DRAFT PRINCIPLES WITH REGARD TO ACTIVITIES IN THE
FIELD OF REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH FROM OUTER SPACE,
WORKING PAPER PRESENTED BY THE FRG" (UNDER SYMBOL
A/AC.105/C.2/L.106). THE PAPER CONTAINS A THREE-
PARAGRAPH INTRODUCTION AND 10 NUMBERED PRINCIPLES, AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

BY RESOLUTION 3234 (XXIX) OF 12 NOVEMBER 1974, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION, FIRST
ASKED THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE TO GIVE
HIGH PRIORITY TO THE REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH FROM SPACE
AND TO STUDY IN DETAIL THE RELATED ORGANIZATIONAL, FINANCIAL,
AND LEGAL QUESTIONS. BY RESOLUTION 3388 (XXX) OF 18 NOVEMBER
1975

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION, REQUESTED THE
LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE, TO CONTINUE IN 1976 AS A MATTER OF HIGH
PRIORITY ITS LEGAL DELIBERATIONS ON THE REMOTE SENSING OF
THE EARTH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL ORGANIZATIONAL, ECONOMIC,
AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS, AND TO DRAFT PRINCIPLES IN REGARD

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TO THOSE PARTICULAR AREAS WHERE COMMON ELEMENTS IN THE VIEWS

OF THE STATES CAN BE IDENTIFIED.

IN COMMON WITH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH AND ENDEAVOURS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE APPLICATION OF THIS SPACE TECHNOLOGY, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS CAREFULLY STUDIED THE PROPOSALS SO FAR SUBMITTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE.

WITH THE VIEW TO FIND A COMMON BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY SUBMITS A DRAFT OF PRINCIPLES WITH REGARD TO ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH FROM OUTER SPACE.

IT IS BASED ON THE CONVICTION THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR AN OPERATIONAL USE OF REMOTE SENSING MUST BE DEVELOPED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND IN CORRELATION WITH EACH OTHER. ALLOWANCE MUST BE MADE FOR THE FACT THAT REMOTE SENSING, OWING TO ITS TECHNICAL NATURE, CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT IT CAN BE ADAPTED TO TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, A FLEXIBLE AND EVOLUTIONARY APPROACH SHOULD BE CHOSEN FOR THE ELABORATION OF LEGAL RULES AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES.

-----PRINCIPLES-----

1. OUTER SPACE SHALL BE FREE FOR USE BY ALL STATES WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY. THEY CAN EXPLORE THE EARTH, FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, IN PARTICULAR THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND ON THE BASIS OF THE TREATY OF 1967 ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE, INCLUDING THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES. REMOTE SENSING SPACE OBJECTS SHALL BE REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION OF 1974 ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE.

2. REMOTE SENSING SHALL BE SUED TO PROVIDE RELIABLE AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE EARTH AND ITS RESOURCES, ITS ENVIRONMENT AND ECOSYSTEM, INCLUDING CHANGES IN THE LATTER.

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SUCH INFORMATION SHALL SERVE STATES IN A BETTER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES. REMOTE SENSING SHALL BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MANKIND AND IN PARTICULAR FOR THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS AS WELL AS FOR RAISING THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. REMOTE SENSING PROJECTS SHALL, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE BE CARRIED OUT ON THE BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION COVERING ALL AREAS OF APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING,

IN PARTICULAR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, FISHERY, HYDROLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, GEOLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY AND CARTOGRAPHY. WITHIN THE RANGE OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED APPLICATIONS PARTICULAR AREAS OF REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DATA COLLECTION, DATA PROCESSING, DATA STORAGE AND ARCHIVING, DATA DISTRIBUTION AND DATA EVALUATION MAY BE SELECTED FOR CO-OPERATION.

4. THE DATA OBTAINED BY REMOTE SENSING SHALL BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL STATES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON REASONABLE TERMS. TO THIS END, ANY STATE OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ORBITING REMOTE SENSING SPACE OBJECTS (SENSING STATE OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION) SHALL INFORM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN DUE TIME ON THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF ITS REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS ON THE RELEVANT MECHANISM FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

5. ANY SENSING STATE OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SHALL, ON REQUEST MAKE AVAILABLE TO ANOTHER STATE ANY REMOTE SENSING DATA RELATING TO AREAS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION (SENSED STATE) AS SOON AS SUCH DATA ARE AVAILABLE IN A FORM SUITABLE FOR TRANSMISSION AND NOT LATER THAN ANY THIRD PARTY. IF THE ROUTINE EVALUATION OF DATA INDICATES APPROACHING NATURAL DISASTERS OR DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT, THE STATE WHOSE TERRITORY IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED SHALL BE INFORMED OF SUCH DATA WITHOUT DELAY.

6. ANY STATE OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION INTENDING TO ORBIT A REMOTE SENSING OBJECT SHALL INVITE ANY SENSED STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPACE SEGMENT. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE INITIATING STATE OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SHALL INFORM THE SENSED STATES OF THE PROJECT. THE INITIATING STATE OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SHALL USE ITS BEST ENDEAVOURS TO ACCOMMODATE ALL REASONABLE RESPONSES. THE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONDITIONS OF SUCH PARTICIPATION MUST NOT IMPEDE OR JEOPARDIZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS MAY BE CALLED UPON TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES.

7. ANY SENSED STATE NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE SPACE SEGMENT SHALL BE GIVEN BY THE SENSING STATE OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SET UP AND OPERATE GROUND SEGMENT FACILITIES FOR THE DIRECT RECEPTION AND PROCESSING OF DATA AFFECTING THIS STATE. HOWEVER, THIS STATE SHALL, AS FAR AS FEASIBLE, CO-OPERATE WITH INTERESTED NEIGHBORING STATES WITH THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING REGIONAL DATA CENTRES IN ORDER TO MEET THE DIFFERENT NEEDS IN THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE EARTH.

8. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CENTRES SHALL BE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE. INFORMATION ON DATA HANDLING AND DATA UTILIZATION SHALL BE EXCHANGED WORLD-WIDE. TO FURTHER SUCH CO-OPERATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE THE UNITED

NATIONS OR ONE OF ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHALL FULFIL CO-ORDINATING FUNCTIONS. IN ADDITION, THEY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STORAGE, ACHIVING AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA OF WORLD-WIDE SIGNIFICANCE AS WELL AS FOR STANDARDIZATION AND DISSEMINATION PROCEDURES.

9. WORLD-WIDE RESEARCH AND APPLICATION PROGRAMMES RELATING TO REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH SHOULD BE INTITIATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS OR ONE OF ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND SHALL BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THEIR AUSPICES. EXISTING OR PLANNED REMOTE SENSING SPACE AND GROUND SEGMENTS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN SUCH PROGRAMMES TO ACHIEVE AN APPROPRIATE DIVISION OF WORK, EQUITABLE COST-SHARING, AND OPTIMUM RESULTS.

10. ALL STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS EXPERIENCED IN REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO PROVIDE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS WITH ASSISTANCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES AND WITH TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDYING REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY, ITS USE, AND ITS POTENTIAL BENEFITS.

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